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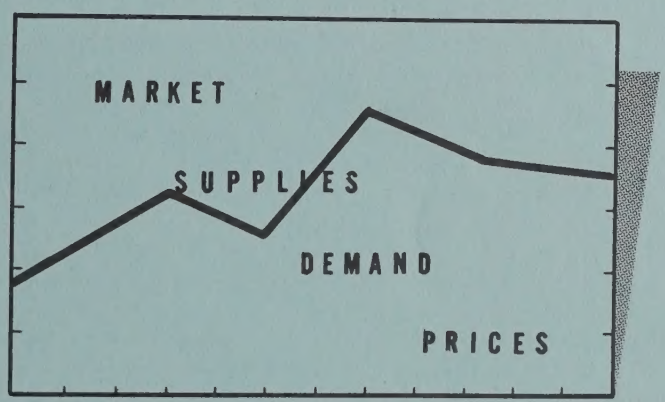
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK



April - June 1959

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C.

Fishery Leaflet 336 nn

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
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CONTENTS

	Page
The Outlook at a Glance	1
General Business Conditions	2
The Food Situation	3
General Fishery Situation	4
Specific Marketing Situations:	
Salt Water Fish:	
Anchovies	7
Fish Sticks	7
Flounders and Sole	9
Groundfish, Including Ocean Perch	11
Cod	12
Haddock	13
Ocean Perch	14
Halibut	16
Mackerel	17
Sablefish (black cod)	18
Salmon	18
Sardines	22
Swordfish	24
Tuna	25
Whiting	28
Shellfish:	
Clams	29
Crabs and Crab Meat	30
Lobsters	31
Oysters	33
Scallops	34
Shrimp	35
Fresh-Water Fish	39
Industrial Products:	
Fish Oil	41
Fish Meal	42
Market Terms	44
Bibliography	45

Prepared in the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

April - June 1959

THE OUTLOOK AT A GLANCE

BUSINESS ACTIVITY.....	Sluggish recovery rate from the recession; unemployment still high, but outlook is favorable.
FOOD	Supplies expected to be larger and retail prices a little lower in 1959.
FISHERY PRODUCTION.....	Seasonally high in most fisheries during the second quarter.
MARKETS, EDIBLE FISH.....	Generally steady for most species.
IMPORTS	Continued high receipts expected for groundfish fillets, blocks, tuna, fresh-water species, shrimp, and canned salmon.
EXPORTS	Generally not favorable.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

The rate of recovery from our national economic slump is more sluggish than was expected. Unemployment has not only held at an uncomfortably high level, but it has grown progressively worse in the last three months. Inflationary trends still a worry even though the availability of unemployed manpower serves as a restraining factor.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION - In February and early March, industrial production and industrial prices continued upward. The index of industrial production stood at 144 percent of the 1947-49 average, one point below the prerecession level of August, 1957 and two points below the record high of February, 1957. Steel production, increased to 85 percent of capacity. Aluminum production was at a new high. Truck production continued to rise, and output of farm machinery recovered. Production of household durable goods, at near record rates, changed little.

CONSTRUCTION - Private housing starts declined further in February to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,320,000 units. The value of new construction at $54.4 billion was close to the January record total and one-sixth above the low of last May. Private residential building continued to advance, but business and highway construction activity declined.

EMPLOYMENT - Nonfarm employment was unchanged in February at 51.0 million, one million above the low in April 1958. Employment increased in durable goods manufacturing, but declined in mining, transportation, and construction. Unemployment stood at the uncomfortably high level of slightly more than 6 percent of the civilian labor force.

COMMODITY PRICES - Wholesale prices of industrial commodities continued to advance from mid-February to mid-March. In response to expanding business demands, increased prices were noted for rubber, lumber, hides, wastepaper, textiles, and refined copper. Prices of farm and food products continued to decline slightly.

DISTRIBUTION - Seasonally adjusted retail sales in February remained near the record high reached in December, and were 9 percent above the recession low of a year earlier.

THE FOOD SITUATION

FOOD OUTLOOK

Food supplies are likely to be somewhat larger and retail prices slightly lower than in 1958. Per capita consumption is expected to recover from the decline of last year when supplies of some foods were temporarily reduced.

MEATS

Revised estimates of total meat consumption in 1959 indicate a total of 158 pounds per person, or about 7 pounds above 1958. Most of this increase will be in pork, with beef about the same as last year. Hog slaughter will be greater because of a 13 percent prospective increase in spring pig crops.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Per capita supplies of eggs and turkeys in 1959 are likely to hold near 1958 levels. Further increase in the consumption of chicken is expected to result from the continued expansion of broiler production. For the first half of 1959, retail prices of eggs, chickens, and turkeys are likely to average below 1958.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

As the year began, milk production was about the same as year earlier. However, total milk output might exceed 1958 levels because cow numbers are unlikely to decline as much in 1959 as they did the year earlier. With milk production per cow likely to be a record high, total output might top the record of 125.9 billion pounds reached in 1957.

FATS AND OILS

Supplies of food fats and oils during the remainder of the marketing year (which ends September 30) will be record large and much greater than those of a year earlier. Total disappearance of all food fats and oils is expected to be up from 1958. Both domestic use and exports are likely to be at a peak.

VEGETABLES

Record supplies of canned vegetables, and moderately less supplies of frozen vegetables than a year ago are in prospect for the remainder of this season. Retail prices probably will average a little higher than last year, but lower prices are likely for some items such as canned tomatoes and tomato products which are in particularly heavy supply.

GENERAL FISHERY SITUATION

Commercial fishery landings in the United States during 1958 amounted to 4.6 billion pounds. This was 3 percent less than the 4.8 billion pounds landed in 1957. However, the value of the catch was the highest on record. It was estimated at $380 million or $28 million more than 1957, and $11 million more than the record set in 1956.

COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS of edible fishery products on March 1, 1958 were 146.1 million pounds, approximately 32.6 million pounds higher than those a year earlier. The holdings of most species were larger with the exception of whiting, sablefish, crabs, spiny lobsters, oysters, and scallops.

FRESH-WATER FISH will be in good supply during this quarter, especially yellow perch and smelt in the Great Lakes region.

MENHADEN LANDINGS of 1.5 billion pounds during 1958 were down 163 million pounds from the 1957 catch.

PRODUCTION OF FISH PORTIONS during 1958 totaled 21.7 million pounds. About 91 percent of the total was breaded - 3.4 million pounds breaded cooked, and 16.4 million pounds breaded uncooked. Quarterly reports will be issued on production of portions.

CANNED SALMON IMPORTS established a record during 1958 when 29.2 million pounds were received. Japan accounted for 73 percent of the total. Canada supplied five times more than it did in 1957.

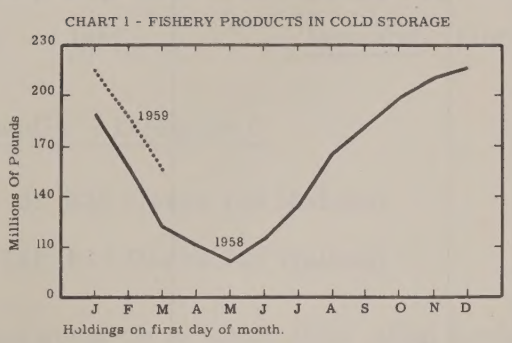
PACK OF CANNED ANCHOVIES continues very light because of unexplained absence of fish.

Fishery Products in Cold-Storage

March 1

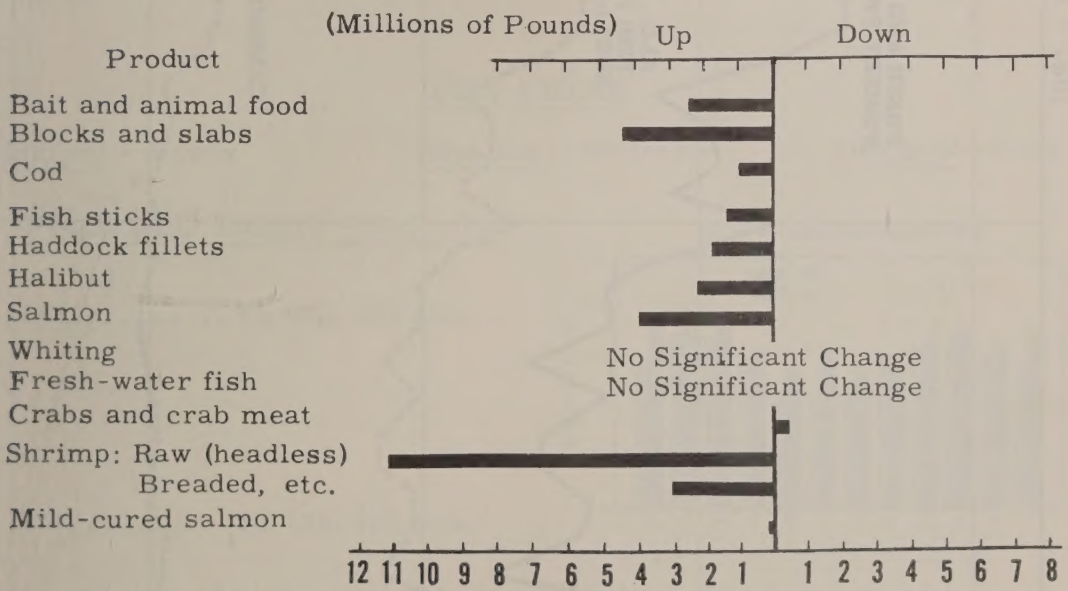
1959.....156,081,000 Lbs.

1958.....121,201,000 Lbs.



Total cold-storage holdings of fish and shellfish on March 1, 1959 were almost 29 percent higher than those on the same date in 1958. Bait and animal food comprised about 6 percent of these holdings in both years. The chart below indicates inventory changes for certain species.

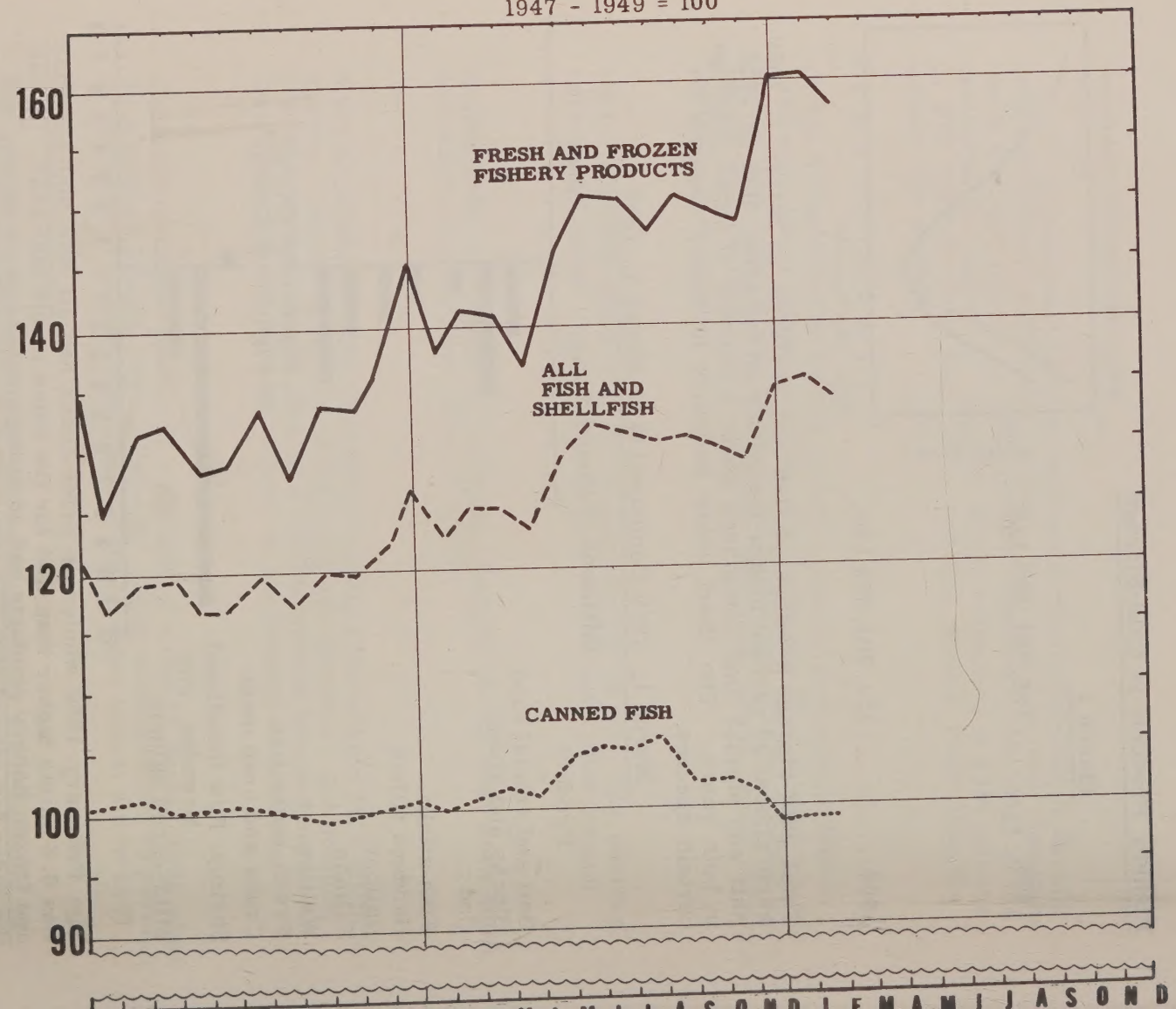
March 1, 1959 Compared With March 1, 1958



The February 1959 wholesale price index for all fish and shellfish was 6.8 points higher than that for the same month last year. Fresh and frozen fishery products had an index increase of 13 points, and the index for canned fish was lower by 2.5 points than that of February 1958 (Chart 2).

CHART 2 - INDEXES OF WHOLESALE FISH PRICES

1947 - 1949 = 100



SPECIFIC MARKETING SITUATIONS

Salt-water Fish

ANCHOVIES, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Domestic Pack, January - December

1958..... 63,826 Cases (48 Halves)

1957.....549,885 Cases (48 Halves)

Landings - Because of an unexplained absence of these fish, 1958 anchovy landings decreased 31.3 million pounds (77 percent) from the 1957 catch.

Pack of canned anchovies during 1958 was more than 88 percent lower than that of the previous year. There was no significant pack during January and February of 1959.

Prices should remain firm because of short supplies.

FISH STICKS

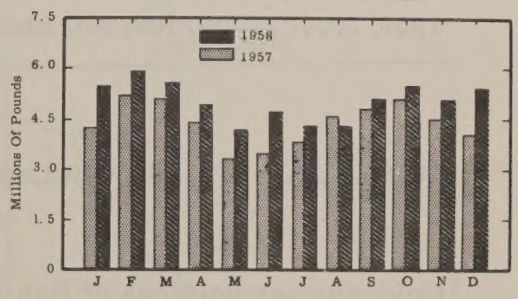
Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Production, January - December

1958.....60,903,000 Lbs.

1957.....53,128,000 Lbs.

CHART 3 - FISH STICK PRODUCTION



The 1958 fish stick production increased about 7.8 million pounds or 15 percent compared with 1957 (Chart 3). Cooked fish sticks in the amount of 55.3 million pounds accounted for 91 percent of the total. Production of fish portions totaled 21.7 million pounds during 1958. Breaded uncooked portions amounted to 16.4 million pounds of the total, while breaded cooked portions totaled 3.4 million pounds. Unbreaded portions represented 2.0 million pounds or 9 percent of the total 1958 production.

Cold-Storage Holdings

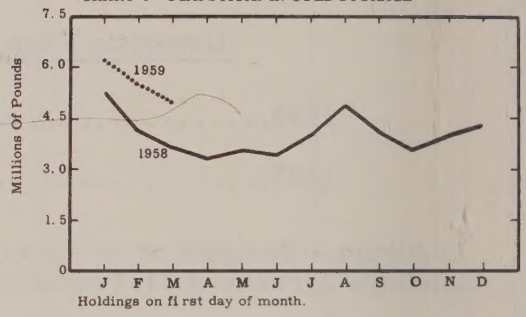
Fish Sticks

March 1

1959.....4,998,000 Lbs.

1958.....3,606,000 Lbs.

CHART 4 - FISH STICKS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-Storage Holdings

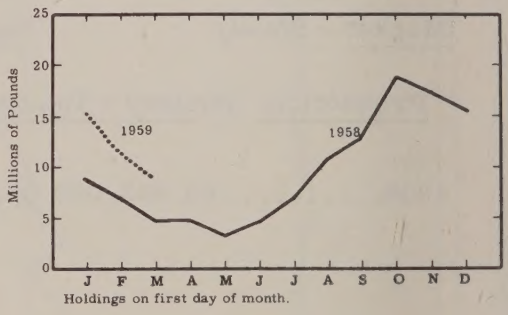
Blocks and Slabs

March 1

1959.....9,103,000 Lbs.

1958.....4,766,000 Lbs.

CHART 5 - BLOCKS AND SLABS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of fish sticks on March 1, 1959 were 39 percent higher than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 4). Blocks and slabs in cold-storage were 91 percent greater than the 1958 holdings on the same date which were unusually short (Chart 5).

Prices are expected to continue at present level.

FLOUNDER AND SOLE

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

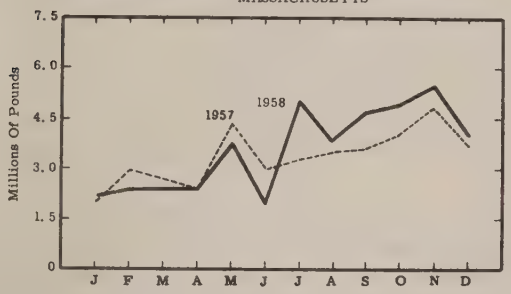
Massachusetts Landings

January - December

1958.....48,690,000 Lbs.

1957.....42,195,000 Lbs.

CHART 6 - LANDINGS OF FLOUNDER AND SOLE MASSACHUSETTS



Landings of flounder and sole in Massachusetts during 1958 were about 15 percent higher than those of 1957 (Chart 6). Increased landings are expected in the second quarter.

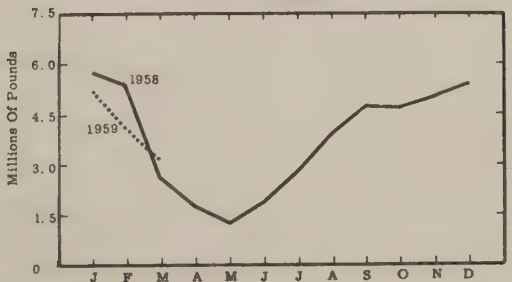
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1959.....3,223,000 Lbs.

1958.....2,662,000 Lbs.

CHART 7 - FLOUNDER AND SOLE FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of flounder and sole on March 1 were 21 percent more than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 7). Stocks will tend to build-up toward the end of the second quarter.

FLOUNDER AND SOLE (Cont.)

Imports, January - December

(Fillets)

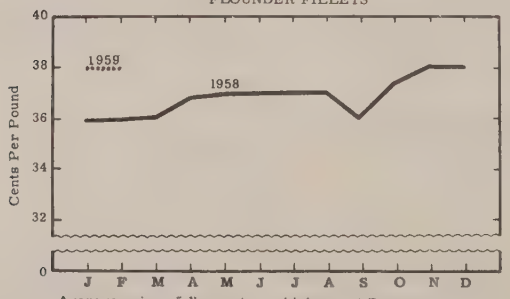
1958.....14,780,000 Lbs.

1957.....14,540,000 Lbs.

Imports of flounder and sole during 1958 were only slightly higher than those of the previous year. Second quarter receipts will be larger than those in the first quarter. Canada is the principal exporter of this species to the United States.

Prices are at the high level reached last November, and are expected to remain firm and steady (Chart 8).

CHART 8 - WHOLESALE PRICES OF YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER FILLETS



Average price, 5 lb. carton, skinless, at Boston.

GROUNDFISH FILLETS, INCLUDING OCEAN PERCH

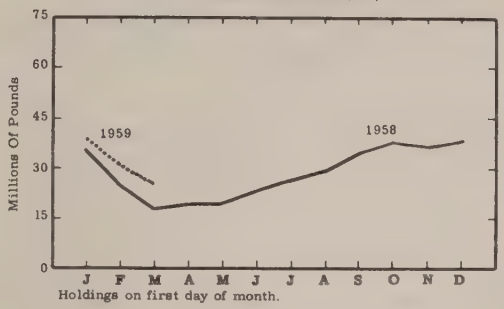
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1959.....26,940,000 Lbs.

1958.....17,933,000 Lbs.

CHART 9 - GROUNDFISH FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE (EXCLUDING BLOCKS)



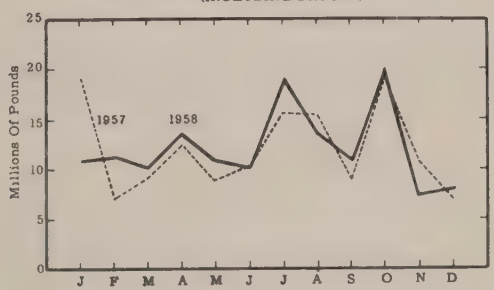
Cold-storage holdings of groundfish fillets, excluding blocks and slabs, on March 1, 1959 were about 50 percent higher than those on March 1, 1958 (Chart 9). Changes in these holdings, by species, are shown in charts and tables on the succeeding pages.

Imports, January - December

1958.....155,149,000 Lbs.

1957.....141,180,000 Lbs.

CHART 10 - IMPORTS OF GROUNDFISH FILLETS (INCLUDING BLOCKS)



Imports of groundfish fillets, including blocks, during 1958 were almost 10 percent larger than those during the previous year (Chart 10). Principal suppliers included Canada, 66 percent; Iceland, 19 percent; Denmark, 6 percent; and Norway, 4 percent.

COD FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

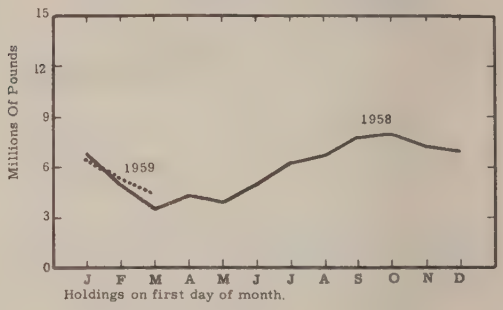
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1959.....4,465,000 Lbs.

1958.....3,514,000 Lbs.

CHART 11 - COD FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of cod fillets on March 1 were 27 percent larger than those of a year earlier (Chart 11).

Landings of cod during 1958 were almost 5 million pounds higher than during the preceding year. Production is expected to be good during the next three months.

Imports, January - December

1958.....48,825,000 Lbs.

1957.....45,543,000 Lbs.

Imports of cod fillets through December of 1958 were 7 percent higher than those in 1957. The largest supplier is Canada, followed by Iceland and Denmark.

HADDOCK FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1959.....4,547,000 Lbs.

1958.....2,748,000 Lbs.

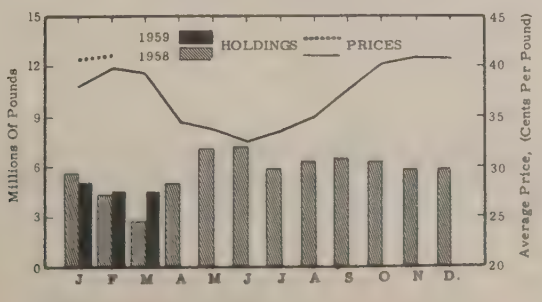
Cold-storage holdings of haddock fillets on March 1 were approximately 65 percent higher than those on March 1, 1958 (Chart 12).

Landings during 1958 were about 10 percent lower than those in 1957. Second quarter should bring increased catch, especially during latter part.

Imports of haddock fillets during 1958 were about 11 percent below those of 1957. Canada and Iceland were the principal suppliers.

Prices, which reached a record high of 42 cents per pound in February, will probably remain higher during the second quarter than those in the corresponding period last year (Chart 12).

CHART 12 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF HADDOCK FILLETS



Holdings - First day of Month.
Prices - 1-lb. small, skins on, at Boston

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

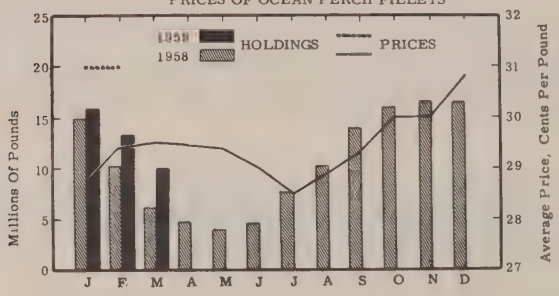
March 1

1959.....9,946,000 Lbs.

1958.....6,218,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of ocean perch fillets on March 1 were 60 percent greater than those a year earlier (Chart 13). Stocks are expected to reach seasonal low during the second quarter.

CHART 13 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF OCEAN PERCH FILLETS



Holdings - First Day Of Month.
Price - 1-lb. carton, large, skins on, at Boston.

A gradual rise in prices which began in July, 1958, has continued to the record high level of 31 cents per pound in February (Chart 13). Price should level off during the second quarter.

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS (Cont.)

Imports

January - December

1958.....21,825,000 Lbs.

1957.....16,682,000 Lbs.

Imports of ocean perch fillets during 1958 were almost 31 percent greater than those during 1957. During the second quarter, imports will probably fall off slightly.

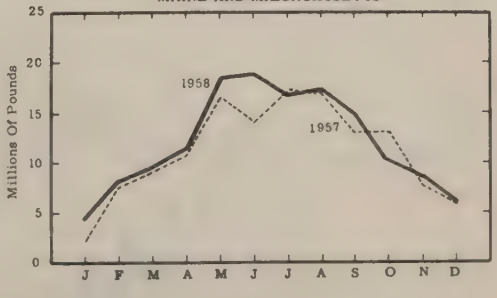
Landings of ocean perch in New England during 1958 were 11 percent higher than those during the preceding year (Chart 14). The second quarter should bring sharp increases in the ocean perch catch.

Landings, January - December

1958.....148,645,000 Lbs.

1957.....133,931,000 Lbs.

CHART 14 - LANDINGS OF OCEAN PERCH, MAINE AND MASSACHUSETTS



HALIBUT

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Landings - Final figures indicate that landings of halibut on the Pacific Coast of the United States and Canada in 1958 amounted to 65.0 million pounds compared with 62.1 million pounds in 1957.

The 1959 Pacific halibut season will be opened to fishing on May 1, except for Area 3B which opened on April 1. Halibut will probably be the most productive fishery in the Pacific Northwest during the second quarter.

Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

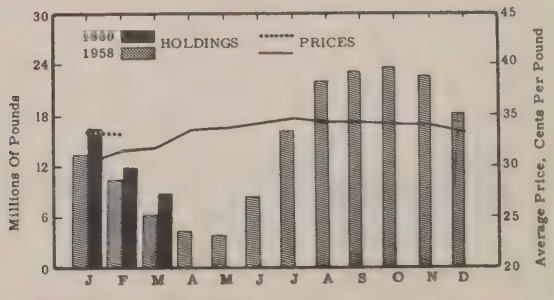
1959.....8,500,000 Lbs.

1958.....6,446,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings on March 1 were about 32 percent higher than those a year earlier (Chart 15). Continued reductions in inventories are expected throughout most of second quarter.

Prices will probably remain steady and high during the second quarter (Chart 15).

CHART 15 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF HALIBUT



Holdings - First Day Of Month.
Price - Western dressed, 20-80 lbs., frozen, at New York

MACKEREL, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-storage holdings of mackerel (except Spanish) on March 1 were 64 percent higher than those on the same date in 1958.

Landings of mackerel along the North Atlantic Coast should reach a peak toward the close of the second quarter. The catch of Spanish mackerel in the South Atlantic Coast is expected to be light throughout this period.

Prices will probably remain steady.

MACKEREL, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good

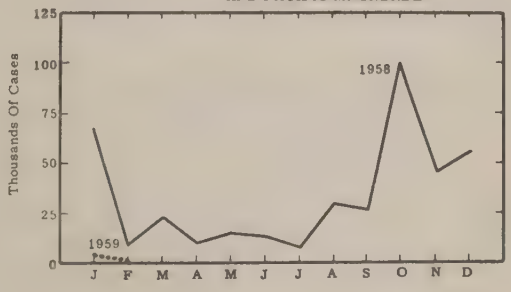
Pack of Pacific and Jack Mackerel

January - February

1959..... 4,466 Std. Cases

1958.....71,910 Std. Cases

CHART 16 - CALIFORNÍA PACK OF CANNED JACK AND PACIFIC MACKEREL



The pack of canned mackerel continues very poor and during January and February of 1959, it was less than five thousand cases (Chart 16). Fishing is also poor and the catch during the first two months of this year was only 10 percent of the landings in the comparable period of 1958. Although landings are expected to increase during the second quarter, the outlook is dim.

SABLEFISH

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Moderate

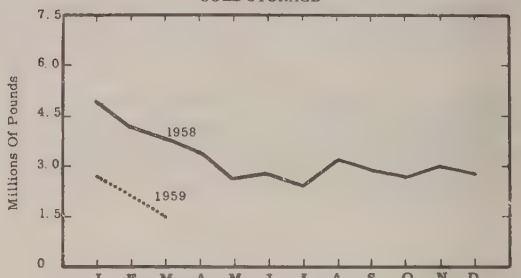
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1959.....1,496,000 Lbs.

1958.....3,847,000 Lbs.

CHART 17 - SABLEFISH (BLACK COD) IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of sablefish on March 1 were 61 percent lower than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 17). Supplies will continue to be short during this quarter with prices probably remaining steady.

SALMON, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Unsettled Supplies - Moderate Demand - Light

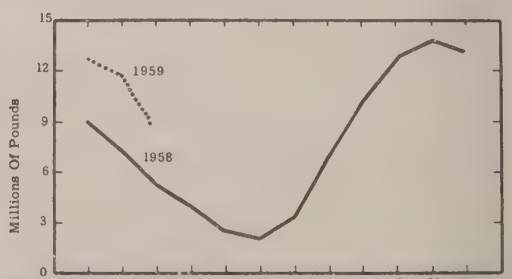
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1959.....8,764,000 Lbs.

1958.....4,895,000 Lbs.

CHART 18 - SALMON IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of frozen salmon on March 1, 1959 were 79 percent higher than those of a year earlier (Chart 18).

SALMON, FRESH AND FROZEN (Cont.)

Imports, January - December

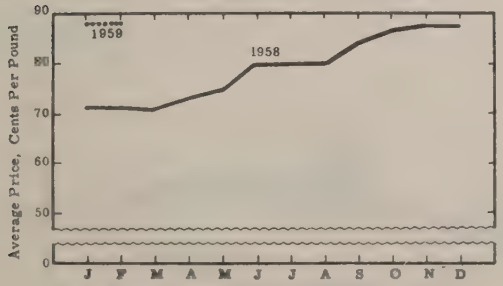
1958.....26,181,000 Lbs.

1957.....15,677,000 Lbs.

Imports of fresh and frozen salmon during 1958 were 67 percent higher than those in 1957. Receipts during the second quarter should be about the same as those in the first three months.

Prices should drop. The large increase in salmon holdings is primarily because of consumer resistance to the high prices (Chart 19).

CHART 19 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF KING SALMON



Large dressed, frozen, at New York City.

SALMON, MILD-CURED

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Moderate

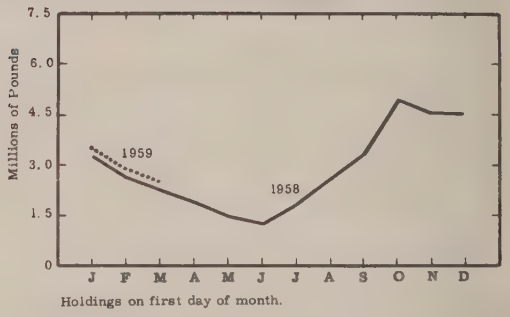
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1959.....2,515,000 Lbs.

1958.....2,300,000 Lbs.

CHART 20 - MILD-CURED SALMON IN COLD STORAGE

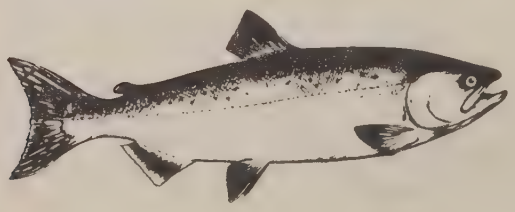


Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of mild-cured salmon on March 1 were little more than 9 percent higher than those a year earlier (Chart 20).

Total 1958 Pacific Coast pack was 8,803 tierces as follows: silvers, 1,768 tierces; kings, 6,866 tierces; and chums 169 tierces.

Prices should remain steady throughout the second quarter, but probably not as high as last year.



SALMON, CANNED

Market - Active Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Season Pack (Preliminary)

(Standard Cases)

	Alaska	Other Pacific Coast States	Total
1958	2,944,580	760,663	3,705,243
1957	2,449,900	742,000	3,191,900

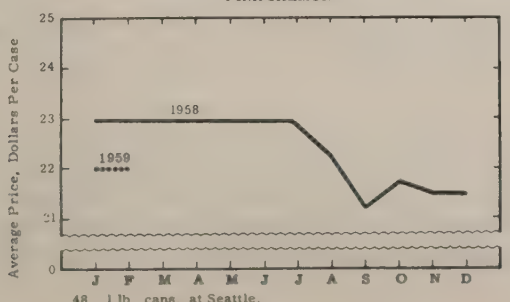
Pack - Final season pack for canned salmon in 1958 was 16 percent higher than that of 1957. The state of Alaska accounted for approximately 79 percent of the total. The 1958 pack was the best since 1954 when almost 4.2 million cases were produced. Pinks represented almost 53 percent of the Alaskan pack.

Imports - A record high of 29.2 million pounds of canned salmon was imported during 1958. Shipments from Japan, although less than in 1957, were slightly more than 73 percent of the total. Receipts from Canada amounted to 7.8 million pounds, almost five times more than in 1957.

Exports - In 1958, United Kingdom restrictions on the importation of canned salmon were lifted and 7.8 million pounds of the commodity were received from the United States. This was about 72 percent higher than shipments in 1957.

Wholesale prices for canned salmon should remain about steady throughout the second quarter (Chart 21).

CHART 21 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED PINK SALMON



48 1 lb. cans, at Seattle.

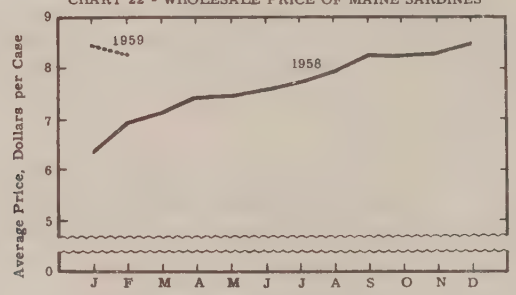
SARDINES, CANNED (MAINE)

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Moderate

Pack - Although the fishing season for Maine sardines usually opens in April, not much activity is expected until late May. The pack for the 1958 season amounted to 2,021,000 standard cases. Total supply at canners' level as of January 1, 1959 was 2,434,000 standard cases or 4.3 percent less than that on the same date in 1958.

Prices - The wholesale price of Maine sardines reached its highest peak of the year in December of 1958 (Chart 22). Prices should level off and are expected to remain steady during the second quarter.

CHART 22 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MAINE SARDINES



100-3¼ ounce cans, keyless, oil pack, at New York

SARDINES, CANNED (CALIFORNIA)

Market - Dull Supplies - Heavy Demand - Light

In 1958, the California sardine canning industry had the best pack since 1951. Supplies are heavy with very little demand. As a result, some serious marketing problems have arisen.

Prices have dropped and are expected to dip even lower during the second quarter.

Exports of sardines, canned not-in-oil, during 1958 were about 19 percent higher than in the previous year. Despite this, the shipments were below expectations. The world market for this product has changed and there is now strong competition from lower priced sardines originating in Japan and the Union of South Africa.

SARDINES, CANNED

Imports of Sardines Not-in-Oil

January - December

1958..... 10,155,000 Lbs.

1957..... 4,570,000 Lbs.

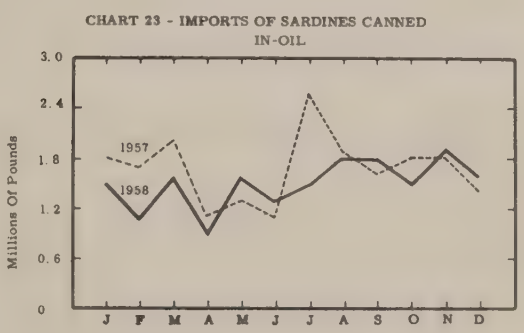
Imports of sardines, canned not-in-oil, were higher during 1958 as receipts from the Union of South Africa increased to 7.9 million pounds or more than 50 percent higher than in 1957.

Imports of Sardines In-Oil

January - December

1958..... 18,000,000 Lbs.

1957..... 20,127,000 Lbs.



Total imports during 1958 of sardines, canned-in-oil, were down almost 11 percent from a year earlier (Chart 23). The decline was primarily because of lower Norwegian shipments which were 16 percent less than in 1957.

SWORDFISH

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

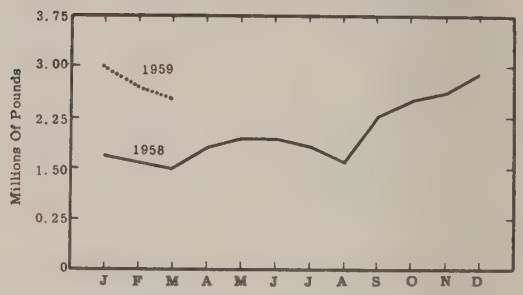
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1959.....2,502,000 Lbs.

1958.....1,480,000 Lbs.

CHART 24 - SWORDFISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of swordfish on March 1 were approximately 69 percent higher than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 24).

Imports of swordfish fillets during 1958 totaled 13.8 million pounds an increase of 13.3 percent over 1957. Fresh or frozen swordfish imported during 1958 decreased 4.6 percent from the year earlier.

Prices will continue steady during the second quarter.

TUNA

Market - Steady Supplies - Heavy Demand - Good

Cannery Receipts of Fresh and Frozen Tuna

California

January - February

(In Tons)

	Imports	Domestic	Total
1959	14,315	18,675	32,990
1958	9,363	18,230	27,543

Tuna cannery receipts in California were record high in 1958. Already, during the first two months of 1959, total cannery receipts, both imports and domestic, were about 20 percent greater than last year. Imports accounted for 43 percent of the total.

Imports, Frozen Tuna

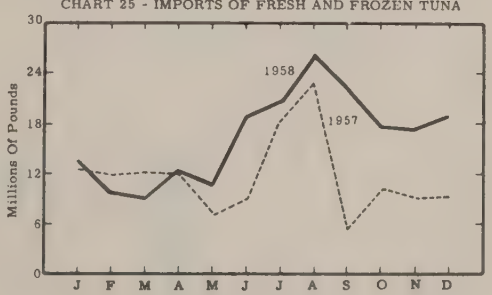
(All U. S. Ports)

January - December

1958.....197,961,000 Lbs.

1957.....139,287,000 Lbs.

CHART 25 - IMPORTS OF FRESH AND FROZEN TUNA



Imports of frozen tuna, at all U. S. ports, rose to a record high in 1958 (Chart 25). About 80 percent of these imports were received from Japan. Receipts of frozen albacore were down 20.8 percent from those in 1957. Imports of yellowfin from Japan were 125 percent more than in 1957. A significant feature of the 1958 tuna trade was the large receipts of tuna caught by the Japanese in the Atlantic and trans-shipped to the United States through third countries.

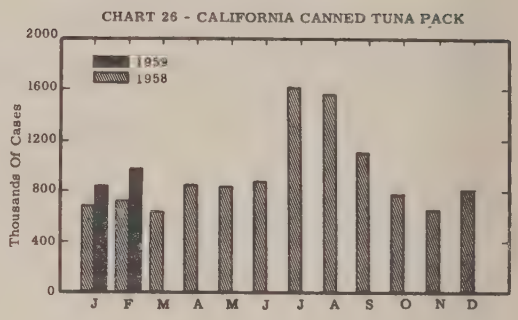
TUNA, CANNED

California Pack of Canned Tuna

January - February

1959.....1,807,000 Std. Cases

1958.....1,406,000 Std. Cases



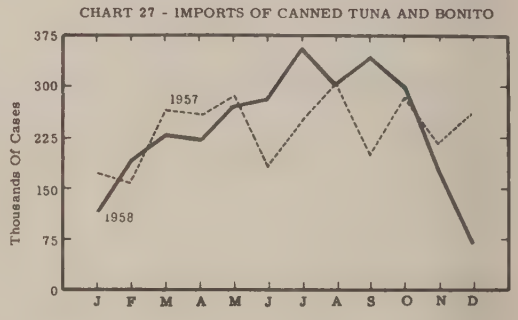
Pack - The California pack of canned tuna during the first two months of 1959 was almost 29 percent larger than that during the same period in 1958 (Chart 26).

Imports of Canned Tuna and Bonito

January - December

1958.....2,935,000 Std. Cases

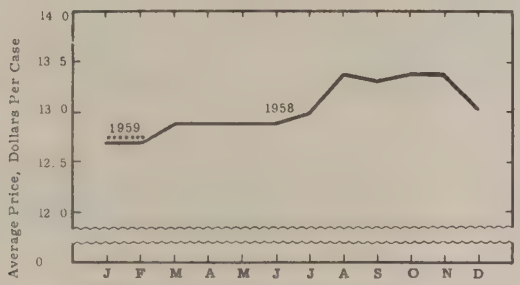
1957.....2,995,000 Std. Cases



Imports of canned tuna during 1958 were about 4 percent higher than in 1957. Bonito imports, however, were down by more than 19 percent. Almost 99 percent of the tuna imports were canned in brine. About 28 percent of total tuna receipts consisted of canned albacore.

Wholesale prices for January, as plotted on the chart below, had dropped to the lowest level since February 1958 (Chart 28). Sales are good and should remain so during the second quarter. Prices are expected to remain steady during the next three months.

CHART 28 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED LIGHT MEAT TUNA



Solid pack, 48 7 ounce cans, at Los Angeles.
Average of weekly quotations for Advertised Brands and Other Packers' Labels.

Bluefin Tuna
Average size, 20-40 lbs.

WHITING

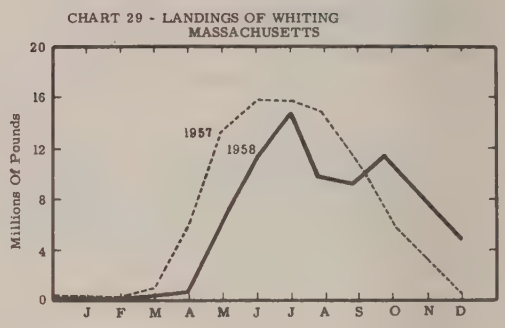
Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Landings, January - December

(Massachusetts)

1958..... 81,050,000 Lbs.

1957.....107,972,000 Lbs.



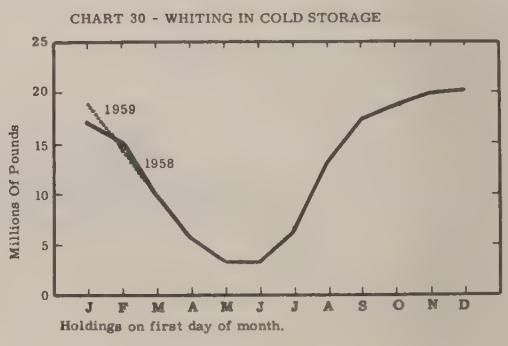
Landings of whiting in Massachusetts during 1958 were 25 percent below those in 1957 (Chart 29). Catch is expected to be good during the second quarter.

Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1959.....10,224,000 Lbs.

1958.....10,197,000 Lbs.



Cold-storage holdings of whiting on March 1, 1959 were about the same as they were a year earlier (Chart 30). Stocks on hand should be practically exhausted by the time the new production season starts.

Prices should be about same as during the second quarter last year.

CLAMS, FRESH

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

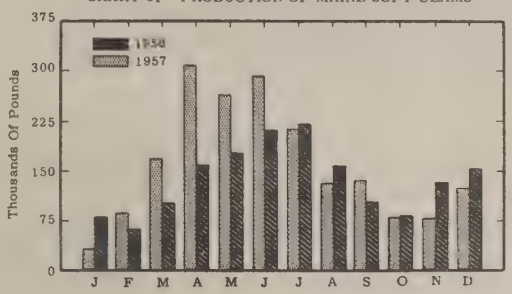
Production, January - December

(Maine Soft Clams)

1958.....1,634,000 Lbs.

1957.....1,964,000 Lbs.

CHART 31 - PRODUCTION OF MAINE SOFT CLAMS



Production of Maine soft clams declined again during 1958. Total production for the year was about 17 percent below that of 1957 (Chart 31). The second quarter is usually the peak production period.

Prices will probably remain steady.

SURF CLAMS

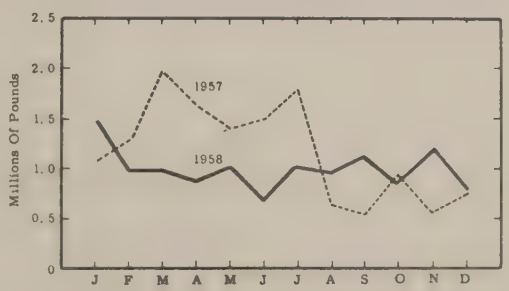
New Jersey Production

January - December

1958.....11,964,000 Lbs.

1957.....15,006,000 Lbs.

CHART 32 - LANDINGS OF SURF CLAMS, NEW JERSEY



Surf clam production in New Jersey during 1958 was 27 percent below that of the year earlier (Chart 32). This was contrary to the trend of large increases in production during recent years.

Prices are expected to remain steady and high during the second quarter.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Production of hard crabs will be good during the second quarter along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. However, some decline in production of dungeness crabs on the Pacific Coast is expected.

Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1959.....2,078,000 Lbs.

1958.....2,460,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of crabs and crab meat on March 1 were almost 16 percent lower than those on the same date in 1958.

Prices are expected to remain high and steady.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED

The 1958 pack of crab meat along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts was 31,233 standard cases of which the Gulf States produced 7,246 standard cases. Most of this pack was from blue crabs. The Pacific Coast States including Alaska had a pack of 112,576 standard cases. Most of this consisted of dungeness crabs, but about 45,000 cases were king crabs.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED (Cont.)

Imports

January - December

1958.....5,854,000 Lbs.

1957.....6,185,000 Lbs.

Imports of canned crab meat during 1958 dropped slightly more than 5 percent from those during the year earlier.

Prices are expected to remain high.

LOBSTERS, NORTHERN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

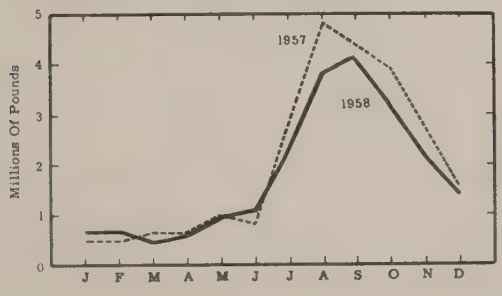
Maine Landings

January - December

1958.....21,312,000 Lbs.

1957.....24,403,000 Lbs.

CHART 33 - LANDINGS OF LOBSTERS, MAINE



Landings of Maine lobsters during 1958 were about 13 percent lower than those in 1957 (Chart 33). The second quarter landings are seasonally low.

LOBSTERS, NORTHERN (Cont.)

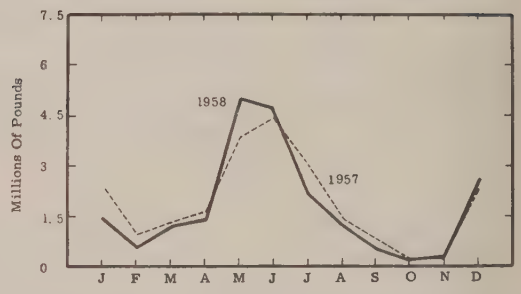
Imports from Canada

January - December

1958.....21,412,000 Lbs.

1957.....22,218,000 Lbs.

CHART 34 - IMPORTS OF LOBSTERS (CANADA)



Imports of lobsters from Canada during 1958 were only about 4 percent lower than those in the year earlier (Chart 34). Most of the imports of northern lobsters are received during the second and third quarters.

Prices might drop slightly in view of increased supply during latter part of the quarter.

LOBSTERS, SPINY

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

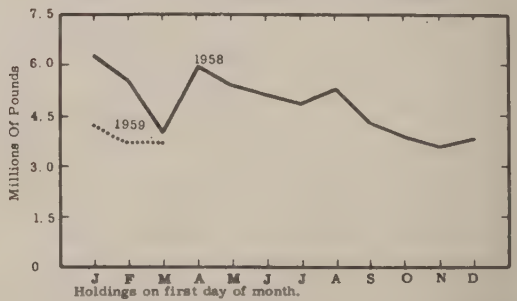
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1959.....3,714,000 Lbs.

1958.....4,052,000 Lbs.

CHART 35 - SPINY LOBSTERS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of spiny lobsters on March 1 were about 8 percent lower than those on the same date in 1958 (Chart 35).

LOBSTERS, SPINY (Cont.)

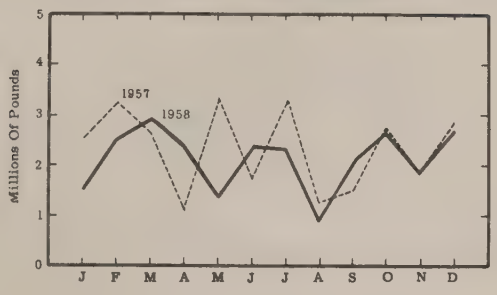
Imports

January - December

1958.....25,937,000 Lbs.

1957.....28,236,000 Lbs.

CHART 36 - IMPORTS OF SPINY LOBSTERS



Spiny lobster imports during 1958 were about 8 percent less than those during 1957 (Chart 36). The Union of South Africa and Australia supplied about 52 percent of the total imports.

OYSTERS, FRESH-SHUCKED

Market - Active Supplies - Moderate Demand - Active

Production will be small as the oyster season comes to a close along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts during the second quarter. Supplies on the fresh market in the Pacific northwest might be increased because most plants have discontinued packing oyster stew as a result of recent Food and Drug dilution charges.

Prices are expected to continue rather steady.

OYSTERS, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Moderate Demand - Moderate

Pack - The canned oyster pack in the Gulf States through March 1 was 90,346 standard cases (48 cans, 4 2/3 ounces each). This was about the same as the pack during the corresponding period in 1958.

Prices should continue steady at present levels.

SCALLOPS, SEA

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

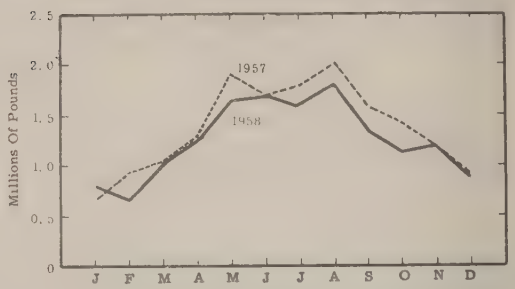
New Bedford Landings

January - December

1958.....15,253,000 Lbs.

1957.....16,179,000 Lbs.

CHART 37 - LANDINGS OF SCALLOPS, NEW BEDFORD



Shucked weight (lbs. of meat).

Landings of sea scallops at New Bedford during 1958 were almost 6 percent lower than those during the year earlier (Chart 37). The high production period occurs during the second quarter.

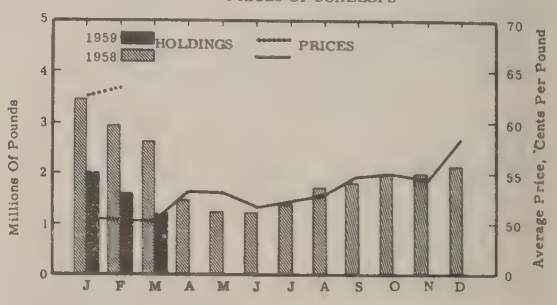
Cold-Storage Holdings

March 1

1959.....1,180,000 Lbs.

1958.....2,684,000 Lbs.

CHART 38 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SCALLOPS



Holdings - First Day Of Month.
Price - Domestic 5-lb. carton, at Boston.

Cold-storage holdings on March 1 were about 56 percent lower than those on March 1, 1958 (Chart 38).

Prices will probably continue high during the second quarter (Chart 38).

SHRIMP, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Strong Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Landings

January - December

Headless

1958.....116,500,000 Lbs. Estimated

1957.....116,238,350 Lbs.

Estimated figures indicate that the landings of shrimp in the Gulf and South Atlantic during 1958 were only slightly higher than those in 1957. Landings in the Gulf were higher than those a year earlier, whereas the South Atlantic landings were lower. In 1958, Gulf landings represented about 88 percent of the total. The usual seasonal increase in production is expected during the second quarter.

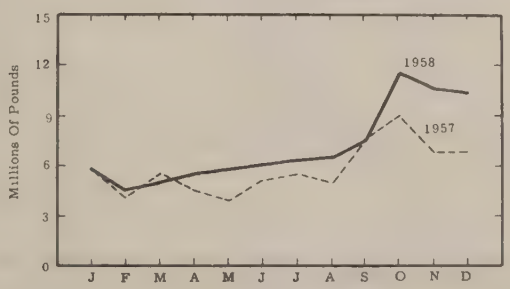
Imports

January - December

1958.....85,393,000 Lbs.

1957.....69,676,000 Lbs.

CHART 39 - IMPORTS OF SHRIMP



Imports - The quantity of shrimp imports during 1958 continued its record-breaking rise (Chart 39). Receipts were about 23 percent higher than those during 1957 and were more than double the annual average of the 1950-54 period. Mexico continues to be the largest supplier, accounting for almost 66 percent of the total shrimp imported into the United States. Panama, Ecuador, and Hong Kong were other important sources.

Cold-Storage Holdings

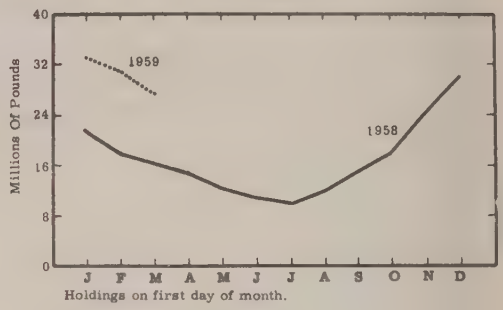
March 1

(Raw Headless)

1959.....27,561,000 Lbs.

1958.....16,359,000 Lbs.

CHART 40 - RAW HEADLESS SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

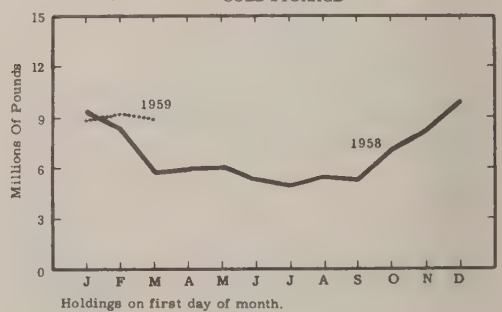
March 1

(All Others)

1959..... 8,988,000 Lbs.

1958..... 5,889,000 Lbs.

CHART 41 - ALL OTHER (PROCESSED) SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE

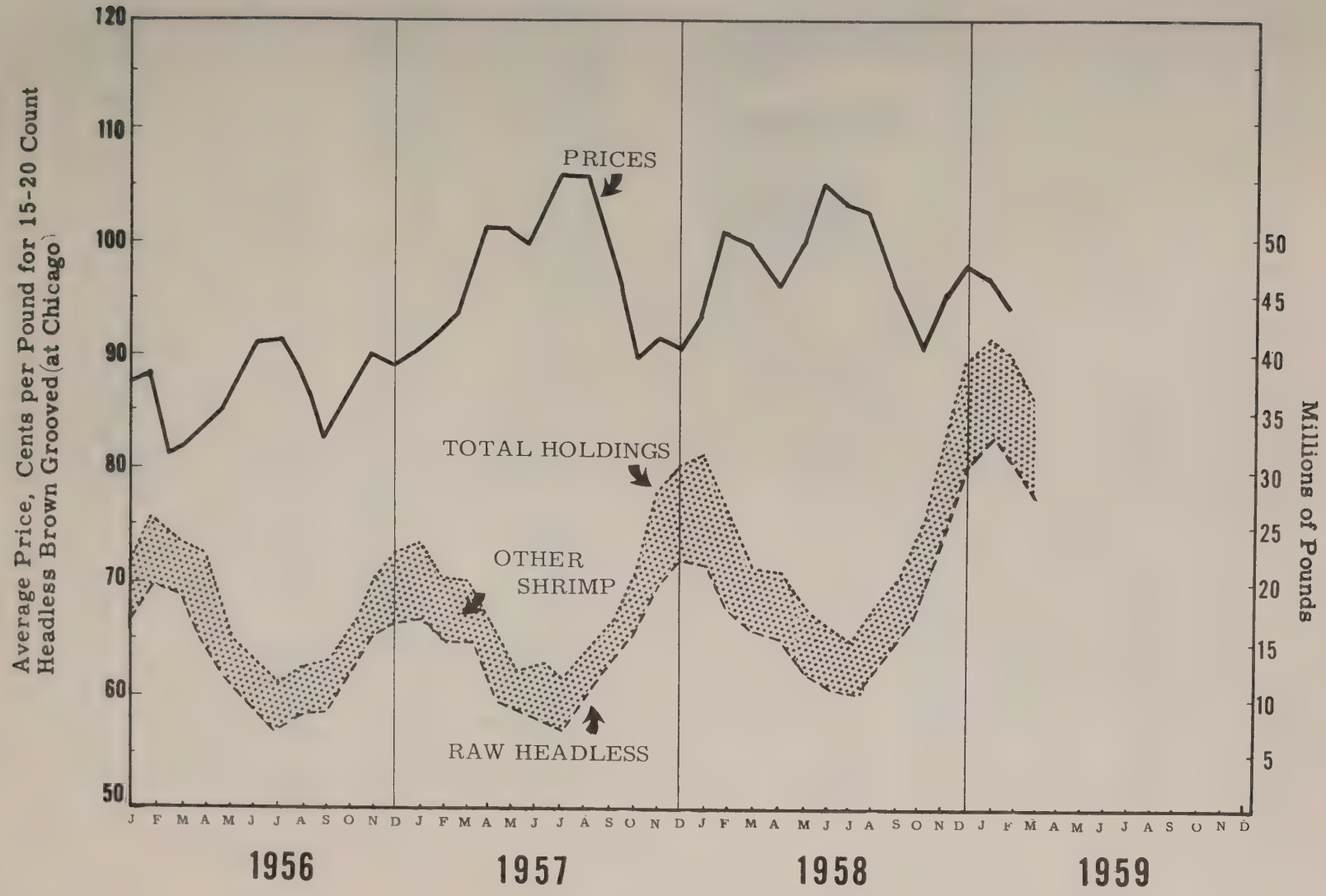


Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of raw headless shrimp on March 1 were 68 percent higher than those on the same date in 1958. Holdings of all other shrimp, including breaded, were up about 53 percent (Charts 40 and 41).

Prices at Chicago for headless, 15-20 count, brown shrimp during February, 1959 averaged 94.3 cents per pound, almost 8 percent lower than prices at the same time last year (Chart 42). Prices have begun to weaken and are expected to be lower during the second quarter.

CHART 42 - SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE AND WHOLESALE PRICES



SHRIMP, CANNED

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

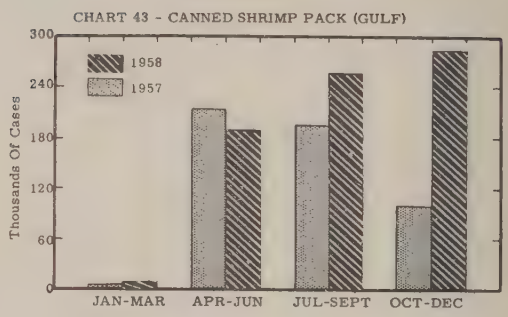
Pack

(Gulf States)

January - February

1959.....15,600 Std. Cases

1958..... 7,021 Std. Cases



During the first two months of 1959, the canned shrimp pack in the Gulf States was more than double that during the same period in 1958. Total pack for 1958 was 52 percent larger than that for 1957 (Chart 43).

Pacific Northwest pink shrimp continues in short supply. Recent catches are averaging much smaller than same time last year.

Prices of canned Gulf shrimp are expected to stay firm.

Cold-Storage Holdings

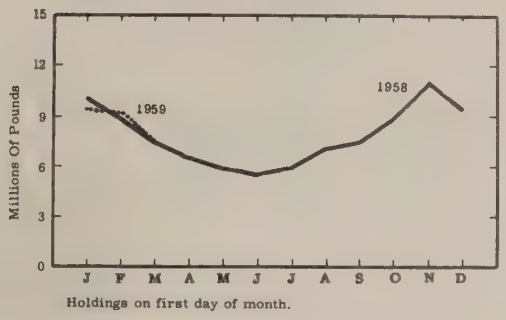
March 1

(United States)

1959.....7,501,000 Lbs.

1958.....7,438,000 Lbs.

CHART 44 - FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

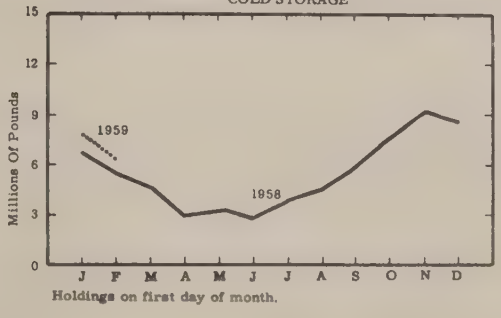
March 1

(Canada)

1959.....6,400,000 Lbs.

1958.....5,600,000 Lbs.

CHART 45 - CANADIAN FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of fresh-water fish in the United States on March 1 were about the same as those a year earlier (Chart 44). Canadian holdings, however, were about 14 percent higher than those on March 1, 1958 (Chart 45).

Fish Imports

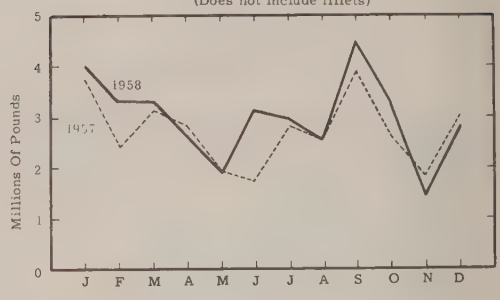
(Canada)

January - December

1958..... 35,934,000 Lbs.

1957..... 32,163,000 Lbs.

CHART 46 - IMPORTS OF FRESH-WATER FISH (CANADA)
(Does not include fillets)



Fillet Imports

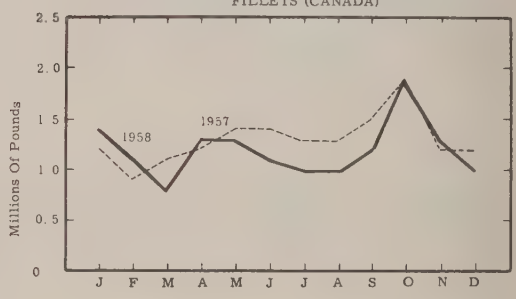
(Canada)

January - December

1958..... 14,567,000 Lbs.

1957..... 15,748,000 Lbs.

CHART 47 - IMPORTS OF FRESH WATER FISH FILLETS (CANADA)



Imports of fresh-water fish (other than fillets) from Canada during 1958 were approximately 12 percent higher than those during the year earlier (Chart 46). Receipts of fresh-water fillets, however, were down about 8 percent from 1957 (Chart 47). Domestic landings of fresh-water fish will be at seasonal high levels during the second quarter.

Prices will probably fluctuate widely in this period.

FISH OIL

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Moderate

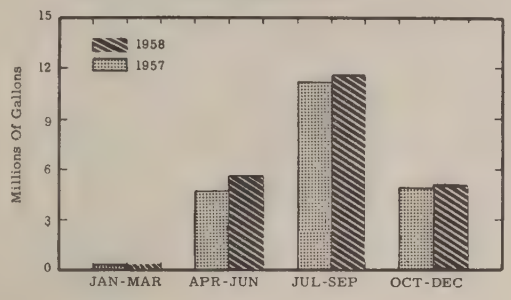
Production

January - December

1958.....21,625,000 Lbs.

1957.....20,175,000 Lbs.

CHART 48 - FISH OIL PRODUCTION



Production of fish oils in 1958 was 7 percent greater than that during 1957 (Chart 48). Seasonal production peak is not expected before the third quarter.

Exports, January - December

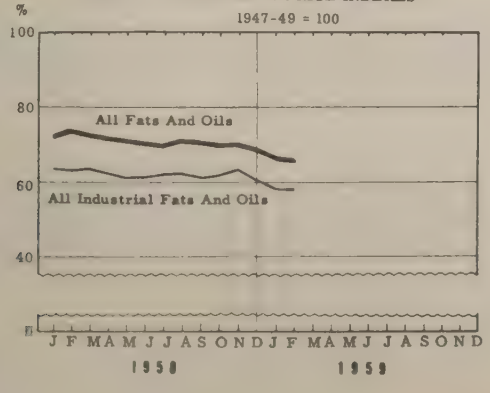
1958..... 94,043,000 Lbs.

1957.....114,818,000 Lbs.

For the third successive year, exports of fish oils continued to decline from the record high of 142.3 million pounds in 1955. More than half of the 1958 exports was shipped to West Germany and the Netherlands for use as an ingredient in margarine.

Wholesale price index for all fats and oils in February was 66.0, a drop of 7.6 points from February of 1958. The index for all industrial fats and oils was 58.1, a decline of 4.9 points from that of the same month in 1958 (Chart 49).

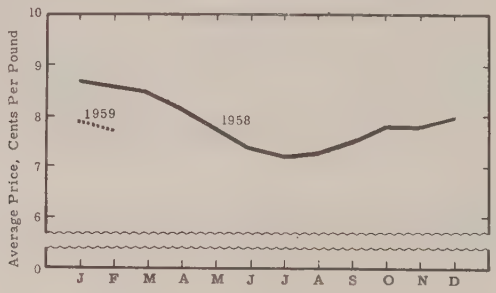
CHART 49 - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES



FISH OIL (Cont.)

Wholesale price of menhaden oil in February was 7.69 cents per pound, a decrease of almost 11 percent from the price in February, 1958 (Chart 50). It is expected that the price will stay somewhere between 7 and 8 cents per pound during the second quarter.

CHART 50 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MENHADEN OIL



For tank carloads, crude (Atlantic Coast)

FISH MEAL

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Moderate

Production

January - December

1958.....216,510 Tons

1957.....241,756 Tons

Production of fish meal during 1958 was about 10 percent below that of 1957. Contributing to this decrease was a decline of 163 million pounds in menhaden landings from last year. Second quarter production will be higher than that in the first quarter, but the peak will not be reached until the third quarter.

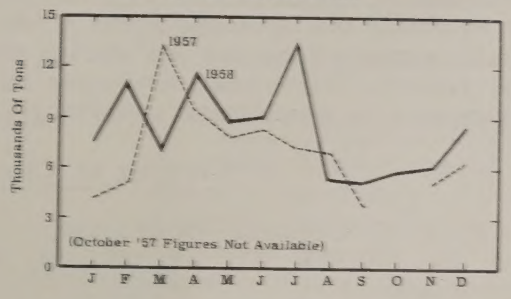
Imports

January - December

1958.....100,352 Tons

1957..... 81,196 Tons

CHART 51 - IMPORTS OF FISH MEAL



Imports of fish meal during 1958 were almost 24 percent higher than those of a year earlier (Chart 51). Canada, which supplied more than half of the fish meal imported in 1957, only provided about 28 percent of the 1958 receipts. Peru was the principal exporter of fish meal to the United States in 1958, accounting for about one-third of the imports.

CHART 52 - WHOLESALE FEEDSTUFF PRICE INDEX
1947-49 = 100

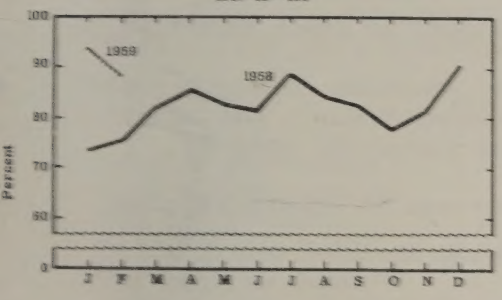
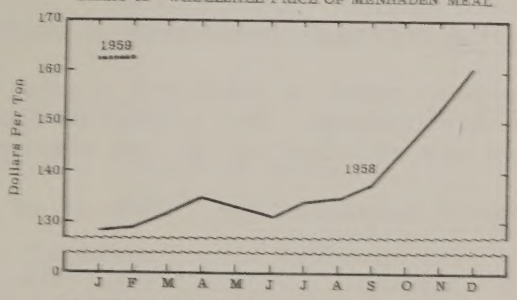


CHART 53 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MENHADEN MEAL



For 60% protein, burlap bag, at Eastern ports.

Wholesale feedstuff price index for February was 88.6, down 4.8 points from the preceding month but 12.7 points higher than February, 1958 (Chart 52).

Wholesale price for menhaden meal continued to rise. In February, the price was at the very high figure of $162.75 per ton, at Eastern ports (Chart 53). Prices are expected to weaken somewhat in the second quarter.

The statements appearing in this report are interpretations of past experiences influenced by current indications of what probably will occur. Wide use is made of interviews and correspondence with representative members of the commercial fishing industry, in order to obtain the opinions of the trade as to the business conditions generally expected to prevail during the period of the year covered by the report. Five-year averages are no longer shown because of realignments in statistical reporting.

Sources of Chart Data

Chart 2, U. S. Department of Labor
Charts 10, 23, 25, 27, 34, 36, 39, 46, 47, 51, U. S. Department of Commerce
Charts 49, 52, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Charts 16, 26, California Department of Fish and Game, Marine Fisheries Branch
Chart 45, Canadian Bureau of Statistics

Market Terms Used in This Report

The terms under the headings Market, Supplies, and Demand are intended to indicate the degree of market activity produced by the particular supply and demand situation.

Market refers to movement of supplies and the price structure.

Supplies refer to available stocks, i. e. receipts, imports, cold-storage holdings, and processed fish and shellfish. The terms used are relative and do not signify any particular quantity.

Demand measures the readiness of the trade to absorb supplies.

Market	Supplies	Demand
Excited	Very heavy	Exceeds supply
Stronger	Heavy	Brisk
Strong	Liberal	Active
Active	Moderate-to-Liberal	Good
Firm	Moderate	Improving
Steady	Light-to-Moderate	Moderate
Unsettled	Light	Light
Dull		Slow
Weak		Practically no demand
Demoralized		No demand

Prices refer to those at wholesale or comparable level.

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Agricultural Outlook Digest
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